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## HISTORICAL NOTES.

DATE OF GEN. GREGG'S BIRTH.—The encyclopædias and biographical sketches of Brigadier General Maxcy Gregg do not give the exact date of his birth and most of them give the wrong year. From family records it is learned that he was born August 1, 1815.

BOUNTY GRANTS TO REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.—The following is an index to the bounty grants to Revolutionary soldiers (Continentalists) recorded in the fourth volume of Bounty Grants in the office of Secretary of State:

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A bounty grant to Robert Johnston is recorded on page 260 of Volume 7 of the books for citizens' grants. A marginal note calling attention to the error was entered there by Peter Freneau, Secretary of State, November 4, 1788. The name is also indexed in the fourth volume of Bounty Grants as in Vol. 7.



SEAL OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNDER ROYAL GOVERNMENT.

THE SEALS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—South Carolina was never a colony.<sup>1</sup> Carolina was established as a proprietary province before a single white settlement was effected upon its soil and a form of government had been provided for the province before any colonies were planted within it. Of course the government had to have a seal. And one, therefore, was designed by the Lords Proprietors of Carolina for the great seal of their province about 1663. The original design of this seal was found among the papers of the Earl of Shaftesbury (Anthony Ashley Cooper, Lord Ashley) some years ago. A large wax impression of the seal itself was photographed for Hon. Wm. A. Courtenay, then mayor of Charleston, and a cut thereof was printed in the *Year Book* of Charleston for 1883, and has since been reproduced in other publications. This was the official great seal of Carolina until 1719, when that part of the province “to the southward and westward of Cape Fear”, which had long been known and governed as South Carolina, “seceded” and became a Royal Province.

The great seal of South Carolina under Royal Government was a representation of the great seal of Great Britain, with a reverse charged with a sovereign conferring liberty upon a subject, beneath which is the word NOSTRÆ and encircling are the words: SIGILLUM MAGN. AUSTRALIS FROVINCIAE NOSTRÆ CAROLINÆ (Our great seal of our Southern province of Carolina). This was the great seal of the Province until Lord William Campbell, the last Royal governor of South Carolina, fled from Charles Town to the British man-of-war, *Tamar*, September 15, 1775, and carried it with him. From the last named date to March 26, 1776, the usurping Council of

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<sup>1</sup>It is true that it was fashionable to use the term colony during the interval between the adoption of the constitution of March 26, 1776, and the 4th of July, 1776; but, as a matter of fact, the Provincial Government had been suspended, not destroyed.

Safety of South Carolina, of which Henry Laurens was president, was the executive of the Province and Laurens, therefore, the acting governor. He used no official seal.

On March 26, 1776, the Provincial Congress of South Carolina set up an independent government with John Rutledge as president. On Tuesday, April 2, 1776, the General Assembly passed the following:

RESOLVED That His Excellency the President and Commander in Chief by and with the Advice and Consent of the Privy Council may and he is hereby authorized to design and cause to be made a Great Seal of South-Carolina and until such a one can be made to fix upon a temporary Public Seal.

For a temporary seal President Rutledge used his private seal bearing his family coat-of-arms.

After the Declaration of Independence a design for the arms of an official great seal was prepared by William Henry Drayton, a member of the Privy Council, and, after some slight amendments thereto, was accepted and, together with a design for the reverse, turned over to an engraver in Charles Town to be engraved as a great seal. Both the arms and reverse symbolized the battle which took place at the unfinished and unnamed fort on Sullivan's Island (soon after named Moultrie), June 28, 1776. The following description of the seal as it appeared when finished is given by Governor Drayton in his father's *Memoirs* which he edited:

ARMS: A Palmetto-tree growing on the sea-shore, erect; at its base, a torn up Oak-tree, its branches lopped off, prostrate; *both proper*. Just below the branches of the Palmetto, two shields, pendent; one of them on the dexter side is inscribed March 26—the other on the sinister side July 4. Twelve Spears, *proper*, are bound crosswise to the stem of the Palmetto, their points raised; the band uniting them together, bearing the inscription QUIS SEPARABIT. Under the prostrate Oak, is inscribed MELIOREM LAPSA LOCAVIT; below which, appears in large figures 1776. At the Summit of the Exergue, are the words SOUTH CAROLINA; and at the bottom of the same, ANIMIS OPIBUSQUE PARATI.

REVERSE: A Woman walking on the Sea-shore, over swords and daggers; she holds in her dexter hand, a laurel branch—and in her sinister, the folds of her robe: she looks towards the sun, just rising above the sea; *all proper*. On the upper part, is the sky, azure. At the summit of the Exergue, are the words DUM SPIRO SPERO: and within the field below the figure, is inscribed the word SPES. The Seal is in the form of a circle, four inches in diameter; and four-tenths of an inch thick.

Governor Drayton gives the following interpolations of the devices of the arms:

It was not designed, until after the fort at Sullivan's Island, had defeated the British fleet, as all its devices will prove. The fort was constructed of the stems of the Palmetto-trees, (*Corypha Palmetto*,) which grow abundantly on our sea-islands—which grew on Sullivan's Island at the time the fort was made—when the battle was fought—and which grow there, at this day.

The ARMS, were designed by William Henry Drayton; and the original executed by him with a pen, bearing a great similitude to what is represented on the Seal, is in the possession of his son. It, however, contains more devices—but this is easily reconciled, by supposing, all he had designed was not deemed by the President and Privy Council, necessary for the Great Seal. The explanation of this side of the Seal, is the following. The Palmetto-tree on the Sea-shore, represents the fort on Sullivan's Island; the shields bearing March 26, and July 4, allude to the Constitution of South-Carolina, which was ratified on the first of those days; and to the Declaration of Independence, which was made by the Continental Congress, on the last of them. The twelve Spears, represent the twelve States, which first acceded to the Union. The dead Oak-tree, alludes to the British fleet, as being constructed of oak timbers—and it is prostrate under the Palmetto-tree, because, the fort, constructed of that tree, defeated the British fleet; hence, the inscription *Meliorem Lapsa Locavit*, is appropriately placed underneath it: under which, 1776 is in large figures—alluding to the year the Constitution for South-Carolina was passed—to the battle fought at Sullivan's Island—to the Declaration of Independence—and, to the year, when the Seal was ordered to be made.

The REVERSE, of the arms, is said to have been designed by Arthur Middleton, often mentioned in these Memoirs; and who was the father of Henry Middleton, at present Ambassador from the United States of America, to the Court of Russia. The Woman walking along the Sea-shore strewn with swords and daggers, represents Hope overcoming dangers, which the Sun just rising, was about to disclose, in the occurrences of the 28th June 1776; while the laurel she holds, signifies the honours which Colonel Moultrie, his officers and men, gained on that auspicious day. The sun rising in great brilliancy above the Sea, indicates that the 28th of June was a fine day; it also bespeaks good fortune.

The engraver to whom the work of executing this great seal was entrusted must have completed his job and turned over the seal prior to May 22, 1777, as on that day President Rutledge issued a pardon under "the Seal of the said State", whereas prior to that time he had issued them under "the Temporary Seal" or "the Temporary Public Seal." Governor Drayton says:

The Author remembers seeing the mould or dye of the Great Seal, brought by the Artist who was engraving it, to his father William Henry Drayton, at his residence in Charlestown, for his inspection; but he cannot fix what particular time it was. From some circumstances which occurred, he believes it was not in the winter.

Governor Drayton was quite correct when he spoke of the "artist" who engraved this seal, for it is preëminently the work of an artist and, strange to say, the writer has never seen a correct copy of this seal (save the cuts herewith) which is still in existence and is now in the custody of the Historical Commission of South Carolina.

This great seal is never used now, because it is not convenient. In former days all papers that required the attachment of the great seal had a piece of red tape attached to them. This tape was inserted in a hole in the top of the mould made by the fastening together of the two halves of the seal. Melted beeswax was then poured into the same hole and after it had cooled the halves were unfastened and removed and there was a great seal pendant to the document.

That seal having been originally adopted, however, as the great seal of the State, should be and is the pattern for all other seals of State, but no one seems able to copy the beautiful and artistically executed original, and, as a result, we see all sorts and conditions of bungled imitations of it. There is not a single official seal in the State or a single cut for official stationery, and very few pictures, paintings or other copies of this work of art which faithfully and correctly preserves the heraldic and artistic details of this excellent model.



SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA—ARMS.



SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA—REVERSE.